

Andrew Jackson to George Colbert, February 13, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GEORGE COLBERT.

Nashville, February 13, 1816.

Friend and Brother, I have recvd. a letter from Genl. Jno Coffee who is now running the line agreeably to the treaty with the Creek Indians, he has extended it to the Tennessee between the U S. and the cherokees and is about to proceed with it to the chickasaw and choctaw lines: He informs me that your people has threatened to stop him from running the line: He is ordered to proceed and you will notify your people that the line will be run, and if they attempt to oppose it or insult Genl. Coffee or his guard, your people will bring down immediate punishment upon them: Your father the President of the U States wants no land but what belonged to the creek nation; Genl. Coffee is running the line agreeably to what they claim, and the cherokee chiefs tells him the creeks were entitled to, and if he runs upon ground the chickasaws are entitled to upon producing good evidence of their claim, it will be given up to the nation. But you will remember that Cold water was occupied by the Creeks; from that point the Creek warriors committed every kind of rapine and murder on our women and children, untill we destroyed and drove them from there. Those that escaped collected on the Black Warrior and there continued to murder our Citizens and steal our property untill Genl. Coffee drove them from there and burnt there houses: The chickasaws therefore cannot claim Cold water that was so long possessed by our enemies the Creeks and to which they never put up claim untill long after the Creeks were driven from there; I do not know that they now claim it but if they do they must be prepared to shew their right and to account why they suffered our enemies to occupy their ground whilst they were killing our Citizens and stealing our property: I have to repeat, the line will

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be run by Genl. Coffee and if yr. people attempt to interrupt him you will bring destruction on yourselves; The President I repeat wants not any land that you have a good claim for, and if the line includes any of it he will restore it on your shewing that you are entitled to it. But either insult or opposition to Genl Coffee will meet with prompt and immediate punishment. The President of the U States loves his red children, and will do justice to them; but he will punish his red children when they attempt by force to do wrong

I write you this as your friend and brother and as a fri[e]nd of your nation to save you from involving yourself in trouble. Some bad men has been lately on the road stealing horses —this you must prevent. Our citizens on that road must pass in safety and undisturbed in their property, this will ensure you our friendship; If our property is stolen you must deliver up the bad men that they may be punished; this will keep us fri[e]nds

I am yr friend and Brother